

Court Administration Mission: To provide leadership, teamwork, professional management and innovative thinking in an effective and impartial manner.

The Court is the primary institution that protects our democracy by upholding the law, ensuring individual rights and liberties, enforcing public order and providing for a peaceful resolution of disputes. The courts uphold the law by ensuring due process and the Courts are open to every person to ensure individual rights and liberties by providing a forum and process by which every person may protect their basic federal and state constitutional rights.

Florida Trial Courts impact every aspect of our society, including:

- Juvenile and adult crime
- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Child, spousal, and elder abuse
- Divorce, paternity, adoption, child custody and support
- Guardianship and probate
- Civil disputes
- Traffic and administrative matters

Nearly 2.8 million new cases are filed each year in Florida's Trial Courts and with the substantial growth of population in Seminole County, the 18th Judicial Circuit caseload is growing each year.

This year (2004) has brought new changes to the judicial system. Four years ago, the voters approved Amendment 7 to the Florida Constitution which transferred funding for the Judicial Branch. The funding of the Court system, formerly funded mainly by the counties is now funded mainly by the State of Florida.

Seminole County has worked closely with the judicial system to ensure a smooth transition during this period. They will continue to fund nine (9) critical positions in our judicial system. Seminole County will also continue to fund facilities, security issues, existing criminal justice information systems, communications and as specified by the legislature, local requirements.

